

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 DPW-01 AID-05 OMB-01

FDRE-00 VOE-00 SCA-01 SR-02 ORM-01 SCSE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAM-01 SAJ-01 NEA-09 IGA-01 /095 W

----- 106624

O 211600Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5664

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

USDEL PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAPARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 5405

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, VS
SUB: PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE NATION

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. PRESIDENT THIEU OPENED HIS NATION WIDE TELEVISED ADDRESS BEFORE ABOUT TWO HUNDRED RANKING OFFICIALS OF RVN AT INDEPENDENCE PALACE BY DECLARING THAT HE WOULD SPEAK EXTEMPORANEOUSLY. STATING THAT URGENCY OF SITUATION PRECLUDED ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING ADDRESS, PRESIDENT THIEU PROCEEDED TO PRESENT HISTORICAL OUTLINE WHICH EMPHASIZED FACT THAT IN PAST, ESPECIALLY IN 1968 AND AGAIN IN 1972, ABUNDANT AND TIMELY US ASSISTANCE SAVED THE DAY FOR RVN FORCES.

2. CONTENDING THAT PARIS AGREEMENT WAS FORCED ON RVN BY US, PRESIDENT THIEU EMPHASIZED THAT ANY AGREEMENT THAT LEFT NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS IN PLACE IN THE SOUTH WAS DISADVANTAGEOUS TO RVN. PRESIDENT THIEU SAID HE ADVISED SEC OF STATE KISSINGER IN STRONGEST TERMS THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE A DISASTER FOR RVN BUT RELUCTANTLY SIGNED WHEN HE RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT IF NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKED,US WOULD USE ITS CONSIDERABLE MILITARY MIGHT IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH VIET NAM. PRESIDENT THIEU ASSERTED THAT PROMISES WERE MADE BETWEEN HIM AND FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON AND WHILE THEY WERE NOT GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT PROMISES, THEY WERE NONETHELESS PROMISES MADE IN GOOD FAITH BY THE PRESIDENTS OF TWO ALLIED NATIONS. PRESIDENT THIEU ALSO SAID HE WAS FORCED TO SIGN AGREEMENT BECAUSE US THREATENED TO CUT OFF AID IF RVN REFUSED TO SIGN.

3. CLAIMING THAT SUPERPOWERS HAVE AGREEMENT TO BARGAIN
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FATE OF SMALLER COUNTRIES WITH EACH OTHER, PRES. THIEU STATED THAT "THEY DON'T THINK OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM OF SMALL COUNTRIES." DECLARING THAT "WE CAN'T LET COMMUNISTS SUBJUGATE US" PRES. THIEU NOTED THAT WHEN HE WENT TO US IN MARCH 1973 HE DID NOT DEMAND THAT US AID VIET NAM FOR 20-30 YEARS BECAUSE VIET NAM IS RICH IN NATURAL RESOURCES. INSTEAD, ACCORDING TO PRES. THIEU,HE ASKED FOR AID FOR FIVE OR EVEN THREE (UNTIL

1980) YEARS.

4. MENTIONING THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF US SUCH AS THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WATERGATE, WHICH PRES. THIEU MAINTAINED TOOK THEIR TOLL ON US RESOLVE TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING RVN, HE STATED THAT DURING LAST TWO YEARS WHILE AID TO RVN WAS BEING STEADILY REDUCED AND RVN

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 DPW-01 AID-05 OMB-01

FDRE-00 VOE-00 SCA-01 SR-02 ORM-01 SCSE-00 SSO-00

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

WAS BESET WITH MAJOR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, NORTH VIET NAM
TOOK ADVANTAGE OF SITUATION TO BUILD UP ITS FORECES IN
RVN INCLUDING CONSTRUCTING AIRFIELDS, BRIDGES AND ALL
WEATHER ROADS, ETC. PRES. THIEU ADDED THAT WHEN
COMMUNISTS SAW LACK OF DETERMINATION ON PART OF US THEY
STEPPED UP ATTACKS AND CONTINUED AGGRESSION AGAINST RVN.

5. PRES. THIEU STATED THAT VIETNAMIZATION PROGRAM WAS
NOT FULLY REALIZED AND THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WAS
ABANDONED. COMPARING RVN TO PLANTATION OWNER WHO WAS
FACED WITH A THIEF WHO STALE PIECES OF FRUIT EVERY DAY,
PRES. THIEU SAID THAT DOLLARS ARE NOT ENOUGH. CLAIMING
THAT RVN NEEDS CONTINUED SUPPORT OF US, HE SAID
US\$300,000 WAS SMALL AMOUNT AND NOT ENOUGH TO STOP
NVN ATTACK.

6. PRES. THIEU ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION TO RESIGN AND
TURN OVER GOVERNMENT TO VICE PRESIDENT HUONG IN ACCORDANCE
WITH RVN CONSTITUTION. STATING THAT HE WAS RESIGNING
BECAUSE OF URGENT STATE OF NATION, PRES. THIEU BLAMED
COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA FOR HAVING A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON
WORLD AND DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION. PRES. THEIU SAID
THAT DOMESTIC CRITICS AND CRITICS IN US ALIKE BELIEVED
AND STATED PUBLICLY THAT HE WAS AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE.
THERE WERE THOSE THAT CHARGED, ACCORDING TO PRES. THIEU,
THAT ABUNDANT AND TIMELY AID WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IF
HE WOULD STEP DOWN. PRES. THEIU ALSO SAID THAT HUONG,
LIKE HIMSELF, WAS A PATRIOT AND UNDERSTOOD HOW TO DEAL
WITH COMMUNISTS. STATING THAT NEITHER OF THEM WAS AFRAID
TO NEGOTIATE UNCONDITIONALLY WITH COMMUNISTS, PRES. THIEU SAID
THAT BCECAUSE ONE HALF OF COUNTRY HAD NOW BEEN LOST HE WAS WILLING
TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF AND HIS POSITION IN THE BELIEF THAT IT

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WOULD BENEFIT COUNTRY.

7. CLAIMING THAT HE TOLD PEOPLE IN 1972 THAT COMMUNISTS WOULD NOT RESPECT PARIS ACCORDS, PRES. THIEU RECOUNTED ARGUMENTS OF THOSE WHO SAID THERE COULD BE SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS IF HE STEPPED DOWN. PRES. THIEU ALSO SAID HE HAD BEEN USED AS AN EXCUSE FOR NOT PROVIDING AID AND NOTED THAT OF ALL THE CHARGES THAT HAD BEEN HURLED AGAINST HIM, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATIONS, MOST DISTASTEFUL WAS US ATTITUDE TOWARD PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR RVN DURING LAST TWO YEARS AS WELL AS AT PRESENT. THANKING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND VARIOUS RELIGIOUS AND POPULAR GROUPS, PRESIDENT ASKED THAT HE BE FORGIVEN FOR HIS MISTAKES AND REQUESTED THAT THOSE IN ATTENDANCE NOW WITNESS THE SWEARING IN OF VICE PRESIDENT HUONG AS PRESIDENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE MAXIMUM CONTINUITY IN THIS MOMENT OF CRISIS FOR THE NATION.

8. AFTER MR. THIEU FINISHED SPEAKING, TRAN VAN HUONG STEPPED TO THE PODIUM AND TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE, FOLLOWING WHICH THE NEW PRESIDENT DELIVERED A BRIEF INAUGURAL ADDRESS. HUONG NOTED THAT TO ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY AT THIS MOMENT WAS A "HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY". DECLARING THAT EX-PRESIDENT THIEU HAD CHOSEN A GOOD MOMENT FOR HIS RESIGNATION, HUONG SAID THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED GREATLY, BUT NOW IS THE TIME FOR EVERYONE TO UNITE "IN ORDER TO SURVIVE". "DIVISION WILL MEAN DEATH." "UNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE WOULD STRENGTHEN THE COURAGE OF SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT AND MOVE "THE ALLIES" TO SYMPATHY. QUOTING A PROVERB, HUONG AFFIRMED, "HELP YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIEND WILL HELP YOU AND GOD WILL HELP YOU." HE REMINDED THE TROOPS THAT THE NATION DEPENDED ON THEM, AND PROMISED THAT AS AN HONORARY SERGEANT HE WOULD STAND BY THEM. MARTIN

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